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Central Washington University Track and Field Coaching Staff

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Central Washington University Athletics, "Central Washington University Track and Field Coaching Staff" (2014). *Track and Field*. Book 489.

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COACHING STAFF

John Picha/Track and Field Head Coach (One Year)

John Picha, a member of Central Washington University's football coaching staff for seven of the past eight seasons, led CWU's men to the Pacific Northwest Athletic Conference track-and-field title and a 17th place finish in the NAIA National meet in his first season as the Wildcat head track-and-field coach this spring.

Picha, who also coaches the women, was selected the PNWAC Men's Coach-of-the-Year. Picha's women's team placed third in the conference meet. The men's team placed fourth and the women's team finished sixth in the Pacific Northwest regional meet.

The first-year CWU head coach previously served as an assistant track-and-field coach for three seasons, first during the 1990 and 1991 campaigns and then again in 1993. He was in charge of the throwing events.

As a part-time coach or graduate assistant, he was also a member of CWU's football coaching staff six of the previous seven seasons before being appointed a full-time coach last fall.

Picha replaced Charles Chandler on the full-time staff. Chandler, who also previously was CWU's track-and-field coach, resigned last spring to take an assistant football coaching position at Utah State.

Picha first joined CWU's football coaching staff as a graduate assistant in 1988. In 1988 and 1989, he coached the tight ends. He then coached the defensive line in 1990, 1992 and 1993. He took the 1991 season off.

A 1984 graduate of Rogers High School in Puyallup, Picha is a former two-year letterman for the Wildcats. He earned honorable mention all-league honors in 1987 and was the recipient of CWU's Best Blocker award in 1986.

Picha played two seasons at Wenatchee Valley College before enrolling at CWU, earning second team NWAACC honors during his sophomore season.

In 1987 he started all 10 games at center for CWU as the Wildcats averaged 252.7 yards rushing and set a CFA record with 34 rushing touchdowns.

Misc: Born 2-9-66 at Puyallup. Brother Tom played football at UPS and is head coach at Bellarmine High School. Also has three sisters.

Kevin Adkisson/Track and Field and Cross Country Head Coach

Kevin Adkisson will begin his sixth season as CWU's men's and women's cross country coach next fall. Prior to replacing Spike Arlt as head coach, he had served as an assistant for three seasons.

Adkisson will also take over next spring as CWU's head track-and-field coach. Adkisson, who was CWU's interim head coach in 1995, replaces John Picha, who requested the reassignment in order that he may devote more time to his duties as CWU's defensive coordinator in football. Picha will continue to serve as an assistant in track, coaching the throwing event athletes.

Adkisson has been involved with CWU's track-and-field program since 1992. He was an assistant coach during the 1992-94 and 1996-99 campaigns. In 1995, he served as the interim head coach after Charles Chandler resigned prior to the season to become an assistant football coach at Utah State University.

That spring Adkisson guided Central's men to a third place finish and its women to a fifth place finish in the Pacific Northwest regional meet. In the Pacific Northwest Athletic Conference meet, Central's women tied Western Washington for the team championship and Adkisson shared the women's division PNWAC Coach-of-the-Year award. The Wildcat men placed second.

In cross country, Adkisson guided CWU's men to a second-place conference finish and a 23rd place national ranking during the 1996 season. Last year, the

Wildcat men placed ninth in the West Regional meet in their first season at the NCAA Division II level.

CWU's women have made steady improvement during Adkisson's five seasons as head coach. Last fall, the Wildcats finished fifth in the NCAA Division II West Regional meet and were second among Northwest schools, finishing behind only traditional power Seattle Pacific.

Adkisson, 30, is a 1987 graduate of Sammamish High School in Bellevue. He graduated from Willamette University in 1991, then earned a master's degree in exercise science from CWU in 1993.

Adkisson was a standout athlete at both Sammamish and Willamette. At Sammamish, he placed 18th in the State Class AAA country meet during his senior season. In track, he competed in the 300 hurdles and 400 meters.

At Willamette, he was an NAIA All-America scholar athlete in cross country in 1989. In track, he specialized in the 800 meters and steeplechase and was the 1991 Northwest Conference steeplechase champion.

Misc: Born 11-27-68 at Seattle. Married. Wife (Patti) served as assistant coach in women's soccer during 1994 season. They have one daughter, Kourtney, who was born May 8, 1998.

TRACK AND FIELD ASSISTANT COACHES: Charlie Smith (jumpers, sprinters), Craig Maloney (sprinters), Rick Maib (pole vaulters), Kevin Adkisson (distance).

Quick Facts About Central

Location Ellensburg, WA 98926
Enrollment 7,200
VP-Academics Dr. Donald Schliesman
Registrar Carolyn Wells
Track Stadium Tomlinson (4000)
Founded 1891
President Dr. Ivory Nelson
Faculty Rep Dr. Clinton Duncan
Colors Crimson and Black
Nickname Wildcats

CWU TRACK